# NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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## NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

### LETTER FROM A PRAIRIE FARMER.

[The following letter from an eminent farmer of Illinois to a distinguished cultivator of Norfolk county, has been handed to us for publication, with a request to omit names and places. Any one desirous of communicating with the writer respecting matters mentioned in the letter, can have his address on application to us.—ED.]

*D———, Ill., March* 12, '46.

DEAR SIR:—I have enjoyed much in the perusal of a description of your farm and the mode of carrying it on, given in the columns of "The Cultivator," for ——. Although I cannot but feel regret that the management of my farm falls short—infinitely short—yet your example encourages me to *try* to do better—also, to beg your aid, so far as may be perfectly convenient to yourself.

I wish to learn if you are acquainted with any thorough farmer, whom you think might be induced to come here and take charge of my excellent and extensive farm, by a *very liberal arrangement, on shares.* I want a man (with a family for the dairy and household,) who will aid in introducing, to some extent, your system, with the economy, judgment, &c., and, (to quote from the "Cultivator,") who will have "a place for everything, and everything in its place." I cannot hope to come up to the perfection of your system of management, but I would be gratified to approach it an humble distance for the present, and as time gives experience, go on improving. To such a farmer, or one whose capabilities came near, I would offer *such conditions as would satisfy him*;—indeed, I would be *most liberal.*

I long to see these admirable lands, and all that pertains to rural affairs here, have fair play. Nature has indeed given bountifully, but, alas! man does not duly appreciate and make proper use of her favors. As to myself, I make little or no pretension to practical knowledge of agriculture—yet I love it greatly. My pursuits have been mercantile, in the East Indies, since 1810, until 1843, when, travelling over these prairies in the month of June, I became fascinated by the scenery and climate—the latter having at once set up a shattered constitution—the effect of tropical climates. I bought land, and have in train an admirable and extensive farm, well timbered, watered, and lying in all respects as one would desire,—land as rich as is useful. It is a beautiful spot—so elevated, that I have views of 20 or 30 miles' extent.

Sheep keeping is a prime object, with other stock, of which I have a goodly number, and purpose increasing judiciously. About 600 acres are fenced, and 200 to 300 plowed. This year I fence 300 acres more, and break up 100 acres additional. It will be two years next month since the place was in a state of nature, excepting some 30 or 40 acres worked by a squatter;—yet, last July, I harvested about 3000 bushels of extra fine wheat and other grain; stacked over 330 tons hay and 200 tons straw, &c. My flock of sheep (say about 1000,) is in excellent condition, as is my other animals, and by 1848, I expect to have 4 or 5 such flocks, in charge of Scotch shepherds. Timber through this beautiful section of the Rock River valley, is not abundant, and therefore valuable.

Our prairie grass, I can assure you (for we have *proved* it,) is equal for grazing to any cultivated grass. Our animals, without a mouthful of other feed, are fit for Smithfield market; as to fat and flavor, superior to any meat I ever tasted in England or elsewhere. I have Eastern horses that were raised on tame grass and hay: they now refuse timothy entirely, if placed in the box with my prairie hay. It is true we take more care as to the period of cutting and curing hay, than the majority of these careless western make-shifts—*not* farmers. I have been over Asia and its islands, and Arabia Felix—but of all delicious aroma I ever met, give me that which comes from properly made hay of prairie grass.

Favored with so much from the hand of nature, how much I regret not having men to do justice to and appreciate it.

I require, also, a gardener—one competent to cultivate fruits as well as roots, &c., and if acquainted with planting forest trees, all the better, for I am breaking up, at extreme points of my place, two or three spots, of 10 to 15 acres each, to plant out various trees for ornament and utility—especially for shelter for the animals, &c.

Beside my main farm, (distinguished as "La Grange,") I own two others near it, both with adequate timber and well watered. I should be glad to have them worked on shares, or rented—or I would sell, if any one fancied them as I do, and would give an adequate price. If a good, agreeable, intelligent person would like to take an interest for any portion, not over two-fifths, of all my farms and stock, and would visit here next May or June, and look on this favored portion of the West, I have little doubt we should come to terms. I need one in that position, as I travel considerable, and when away, a *head* should remain, and see that matters go right.

Property here is fast increasing in value. Our land office sells about 30,000 acres monthly to settlers. I believe that if I could sell my place say seven years hence, it would bring 6 or 10 dollars for one of cost.

The journey here is pleasant, via. Buffalo and the Lakes and Chicago—or, if before July, via. Ohio, Mississippi, St. Louis, thence to Peru, or Rock Island, or Galena. I prefer the two latter, for seeing more of the country, and the better country. That along the river Illinois, lies too low, and is tame and wet and unhealthy.

Rock River is in process of improvement, and will be navigable in '47. A railroad is about being commenced from Chicago to Galena, and others will diverge. A canal is projected from Milwaukie to Rock River, uniting the great lakes with the great rivers. Within three years we shall have all desirable conveyances for produce, &c. to the best markets.

I sold my wheat in December, deliverable at my granaries, for 65 cents. It was when excitement was at the highest: now, 45 and 50 cents is the price.

It costs me 24 cents per bushel to raise wheat, including all expenses. To keep sheep a year, 45 cents per head. Cattle, to their 5th year, 9 and 10 dollars per head—Colts in proportion. Hogs, including fattening, say 18 months, $3. Of course, I allude to doing it all on rather a larger scale than is usual this way—and in that there is *great* economy, and consequently, for the amount of capital, great profit,—for fat cattle will sell at 2 1-2 to 3 cts. per lb.; a good pair of working oxen, 36 to $44; horses, 3 to 4 years old, 50 to $100; pork, 3 cts. per lb.; wethers, in order for market, 2 to $2 1-4; lambs, or yearlings, of good stock, 2 to $2 1-2—take pay in produce, say grain, (and want it for stock) at cash prices.

The roads this way are perfect—as is the weather generally. We shall begin to plow in 3 or 4 days. Our grain crops are in admirable condition.

Excuse me for the length of this letter. I did not purpose to inflict so many lines upon you; but "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth will speak." It is my passion to write or talk of this country, and my pursuits.

Believe me yours, respectfully,

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*Carrots for Hogs.*—I fed, the year before last, several hundred bushels of carrots to my hogs. They answer very well to begin on, as they come in early, when farmers are generally short of feed. But as to *fattening*, they may fatten other people's hogs, but I shall not try them for this purpose again, for I experimented with them till I came to the conclusion that feeding them was like feeding saw-dust and meal—the more meal you mix with the saw-dust, the better the hogs fatten. But for cattle and horses they are excellent food.—*J. H. C., in Amer. Agricult.*

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*Parsnips for Hogs.*—Parsnips are preferred by hogs to all other roots, and make excellent pork. By them they can be fattened in six weeks. A porker of mine 22 months old, and weighing net 750 lbs., never ate anything but raw parsnips and sour milk; and finer meat never was seen. In the use of parsnips for stock, they should never be washed, but be given as they are taken from the ground. Used in this way, they are found not to surfeit the hogs and cattle. They are good to fatten cattle, and if given freely to cows, will much improve the quality and quantity of their milk.—*S. L., in Prairie Far.*

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*Raising Beets.*—The best beets we have ever seen, says a writer in the Farmer's Cabinet, were raised in alternate rows with corn—the corn a full crop. We have frequently seen carrots and ruta bagas grown in this way, and without any apparent injury to the grain; and we apprehend that beets and parsnips may be produced in the same way and with equal success.

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The finer the seed to be sown, the finer should the soil be made which is to receive it.

## THE INVISIBLE GASES.

Those *invisible spirits* which may be almost said to preside over all that is to be learned of Agricultural Chemistry—we allude to the gases: oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and carbonic acid—have all the misfortune of being imperceptible to the eye. Whether dame Nature, in making them so, had not some little joke in hand, for the purpose of stultifying the wisdom of those of her children who refuse to admit all evidence but that of their *bodily* eyes, she does not tell us in words: but she seems to point rather significantly to some such conclusion, in having based all the processes revealed in animal and vegetable physiology upon the action of *invisible* agents: animals and vegetables grow and derive their increase out of matter which, in its original form, is perceptible to the mind, but *not to the eye*, and which, on their death and decomposition, will return to the same invisible state.

What a fund of reflection does this simple fact offer to the agriculturist, who is willing to believe that man was intended to cultivate the earth *with his mind* as well as his body. Imagine him taking a walk over his farm, in July, immediately after a smart thunder-storm; a delicious and peculiar fragrance rises up from the ground to his nostrils; a stripling schoolboy at his side, looks up knowingly in his face, and says, "Papa, do you know where that sweet scent comes from?" "To be sure, child—*from the ground.*" "Yes, but what makes it come from the ground?" "Why, *the rain.*" "But what makes the rain bring it from the ground?" Papa looks foolish and confounded—whilst the junior boy in the junior class of agricultural chemistry, comes out strong with his first lesson:—"It comes from *the ammonia, brought down in the rain more rapidly than the earth can absorb it, and which, being a highly volatile gas, is rising again into the air.*" "Nonsense! child." "But, *'t is so*, papa: Professor Liebig and Dr. Playfair, and all the great chemists say that it is so." "But *how can they prove it*, boy?" "Why, in this way: they say that although the carbonate of ammonia, which smells now so deliciously, is a *volatile* gas, the *sulphate* of ammonia is a fixed and *visible* body; and if you spread finely powdered gypsum over a grass-field, you may walk over it after a thunder shower without perceiving this scent; for the gypsum (which is *sulphate of lime,*) lays hold of the ammonia, and obliges it to make a very curious interchange—a sort of cross-marriage; for the sulphate leaves the lime and unites with the ammonia, and becomes sulphate of ammonia, and the carbonate, abandoned by the ammonia, consoles the deserted lime, and becomes carbonate of lime, commonly called *chalk.* And thus gypsum, though not a manure in itself, becomes the basis of two manures—sulphate of ammonia and carbonate of lime. And the teacher says that if powdered gypsum be spread occasionally over the stables and the barnyard, it will catch all the ammonia that now goes off in smell, and, by the process before mentioned, increase the quantity and value of the manure."

Query: which is the better agriculturist, that boy or his father? The one is an experienced, practical farmer; the other, a youngster, just dipped in the first rudiments of Theory. * * *

*What is* Theory? The condensed result of the whole history of *past practice*, arranged and classified, enlightened and explained, by reference to the eternal and immuable principles of scientific truth. He who commences practice with the knowledge of theory, commences business with a mind lit up by the recorded experiences of those who went before him.

Never, surely, can a farmer deserve the name of master of his business, until he understands the nature and high importance of those *invisible agents* which the science of chemistry opens to us. The wooden walls of our naval armaments, have derived their bulky substance from the elaboration in the leaves of the oak, of the invisible carbonic acid gas; the most nutritious part of a loaf of bread is derived from the equally invisible nitrogen; the boundless and fathomless waters of the ocean are composed of two gases, each of them separately invisible; and lastly, the atmosphere, that supports life and respiration, during every instant of our existence, is itself invisible. Surely, then, the existence of *ammonia*, the life and soul of agricultural fertility, should not be neglected, and practically disbelieved, merely because it is *invisible.*—*C. W. H., in Lond. Ag. Gaz.*

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From the American Agriculturist.

## MANURES—THEIR APPLICATION.

When we consider how much the productiveness of our farms depends on the manure heap, and how much this matter is at times neglected, a few remarks, I trust, will not be unacceptable, and although familiar to most of you, if they stimulate one person to apply them, who has hitherto neglected to do so, the object in making them will be attained.

From my own observation and experience, I have come to the conclusion that manure arising from animal and vegetable substances, should be exposed as little as possible to the sun, air and drenching rains, and when applied to the soil, be immediately plowed in.

It is my opinion, also, that manure, when plowed in, cannot be kept too near the surface, provided it is well mixed and so covered that the essence will be dissolved by rain, and taken up by the roots of plants.

My object and aim is to make and get manure; and to carry this into effect, nothing that would contribute in the least degree to increasing the manure heap, is thrown away. I have always made it a practice to convert every article of filth and rubbish about my premises, weeds, and coarse grass around the fields and fences, into manure; and have even hauled sawdust, turner's chips, and sumach leaves, from the morocco dresser, to bed my cattle, and absorb the urine previous to mixing in the compost heap. I also haul anthracite coal-ashes from the city, on which I set a high value for a top-dressing on my meadows.

I am an advocate of compost, and mix all the produce of the cattle-yard, the sheep-yard, the horse stable, the pig stye, and the poultry house. The dung of the hog is the richest and strongest; that of the horse the most heating; that of cattle, the coldest but the most durable. The dung of sheep is quick in operation: therefore, mixing of cattle, horse, hog, and sheep dung for all kinds of soils and all kinds of crops, is to be preferred, as the one corrects the defects of the other, and prevents the fermenting process going on too rapidly.

The greater utility of fermented dung is proved from the little advantage derived from that dropped on the ground by cattle, and not fermented. In the process of fermentation, also, the seeds of weeds and the eggs of insects are destroyed.

My yard is dishing; still it sometimes overflows, and the excess passes off into a basin excavated for it. Near this basin, which is outside the yard, I place my compost heap, which I commence with a layer of yard manure, about one foot in thickness; then a coat of shell lime and ashes; then a layer of turf; then a layer of horse, hog, or sheep dung; then a coat of soil, and so on—in short, everything of a fertilizing nature is placed in the heap, carrying up the sides square, until the pile reaches the height of five to six feet. As the heap progresses, each layer is saturated with liquid from the cattle-yards, and then covered with fine soil, to prevent the escape of the fertilizing gases, so that the soil thus used for a covering, becomes itself a valuable manure. After remaining a sufficient time, I cause the whole heap to be carefully and completely turned and mixed, throwing on liquid manure as the work progresses. A fermentation soon takes place, sufficient to destroy the vitality of the seeds of such weeds as may find their way into the heap. After two turnings, it generally gets completely broken down and comminuted.

In this way, I have added from one hundred to one hundred and fifty loads of good manure per year.

I have used with good success, bone-dust, horn shavings, bristles, salt-fish, and poudrette—all valuable for the immediate crop; but for enriching the soil durably, give me the compost heap.

C. N. Bement.

*Albany, N. Y.*

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[The following article is from the "Southern Miscellany," a Georgia journal. It interested *us*, and we thought it might interest some of our readers:]

## SOUTHERN FOLLY.

*Mr Editor*:—I promised in a former communication, to point out some means by which, in my humble opinion, our general prosperity as a people, might be advanced, by a change in some of the habits and occupations followed to make gain.

I do not war, *in feeling*, with the common pursuits of our planters, whose ways have become to them a kind of second nature: they are doing as they have been taught by their ancestors—[as true of Northern farmers generally]—and whether right or wrong, they are not so much to blame. They are, generally, striving very hard to make cotton and corn—cotton to make England, and the Northern and Eastern States rich, and corn to subsist upon while making that cotton. It is true, they frequently have some thousands of dollars to spare: this they lay out in the purchase of negroes, to make more cotton, *to buy more negroes*—and they *prosper* very much, sometimes, in the increase of—*slaves*, with which they wear out and destroy all the good land around them.

The cultivation of cotton—which is almost the exclusive one in this section of country—will both ruin the land and depopulate every neighborhood which depends upon it—break up schools, stores, and means or social intercourse.

I could refer to several of the most prosperous farmers among us, who have made cotton a secondary matter, and who are now better off in every respect, than those who have done otherwise: their lands and farms generally are in a better condition, and everything around them seems to be better provided for.

But to my point. Some means must be adopted to regain the former population of the counties, and I think there is only one way to do it. *We must become manufacturers of our own great staples*—

particularly cotton. We are doing finely in the way of superior flour, but cotton goods and cotton yarns are the greatest articles for the production of wealth, and to give employment. I rejoice that we have some noble-hearted men who have ventured, in dark times, large sums in manufactories, and are still resolved to do so, in spite of trials and obstacles enough to daunt ordinary men. They will not only enhance the value of everything around them, but give employment, food and raiment to many who would otherwise scarcely eat a cheerful meal—for the people of Georgia are poor indeed! Little villages will, in the course of time, spring up in the neighborhood of all the factories, and prosperity will be seen on every hand: every thing to spare for miles around will find ready sale, and much of the deserted lands will again "bloom and blossom like the rose."

I do not hesitate to say, that if every one of our up-country villages had in them one or two manufacturing establishments—moved by steam power where water could not be had—it would soon make them show the difference betwixt work, trade, population and prosperity, and the present dull, gloomy, spiritless appearance of almost every town in the State.

We *must* wake up! We are just about as nearly below par as we can stand: a few more years' continuance in our present course—sending off our cotton at 3 to 5 cents a pound, for Massachusetts to make it worth from one to three dollars, by their ingenuity and enterprise—and we are ruined beyond redemption. R.

## SOAKING SEEDS.

Much has been said, of late years, of the soaking of seeds in various chemical solutions, with a view to their more speedy germination and rapid growth. In some instances it has been supposed that the use of ordinary manure might be superceded by such a process; and it has even been announced that such a result had been reached by some German or French experimenter.

The facts appear to be, so far as we can judge, that truth and error, who generally live near neighbors, whether on good terms or not, are mingled to a great degree in the statements on this subject.

A communication in the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, by N. S. Davis, will be found interesting. We may remark that our success in experiments of this kind has been very much like that of Mr D. We soaked peas, this season, in a weak solution of carbonate of ammonia, for twelve hours, which to a good degree failed to germinate; while those soaked in water not only sprouted readily, but were a week in advance of those steeped in the solution. On the other hand, Dr. W. B. Egan, of this city informs us that he has been entirely successful in this line, having succeeded in germinating coffee in a few hours. Mr Davis says:

"Last spring and summer, I prepared solutions of muriate of ammonia, muriate of soda, nitrate of soda, sulphate of soda, and nitrate of ammonia, and soaked seeds in all of them, during various periods of time, from three to sixty hours. The seeds soaked were corn, oats, peas, beans, melon seeds, cucumber seeds, &c. But to make my experiments fairly, I always soaked an equal quantity of seed in pure water, and during the same length of time as in the saline solution. Both were then planted side by side, in the same soil. In regard to the corn, peas and beans, no possible difference could be detected, either in the time required for them to come up, or in the vigor of their growth after they were up, between those soaked in water and those in any of the saline solutions; provided the soaking was not continued beyond twelve or fourteen hours. But when the soaking was continued considerably longer than this, it seemed to do positive injury; and one instance of peas, soaked in a moderately strong solution of muriate of soda for forty eight hours, almost entirely failed to germinate or sprout, while those soaked the same length of time in water, and planted side by side with the others, grew vigorously. Precisely the same result was produced on the corn planted in a field by one of my neighbors, who soaked his seed in an ammoniacal solution, as long as recommended in some of the newspaper statements on this subject. Scarcely one spear in a hill ever made its appearance; although the quality of the seed was known to be good before soaking. In reference to the melon seeds, there was a slight difference in favor of the saline solutions, provided the soaking was not continued more than twentyfour hours. With the oats there was a still greater difference, even when the soaking was continued ten or twelve hours longer. From my own experiments, and the results I observed from the experiments of others, the following conclusions may be safely drawn: 1st. That seeds with only a thin covering or epidermis, like wheat, rye, corn, peas, beans, &c. are no more benefited by soaking in saline solutions than in water; and that if they are soaked too long, positive injury is the result. 2d. Seeds having a thick covering or husk, as oats, barley, melon seeds, &c. are benefited by soaking in proportion to the amount of saline matter the husk is capable of retaining. But even in these cases, if the soaking is continued long enough to fully impregnate the germ itself with the solution, injury is done.

"This is just what sound reason, without any experiments, would teach us. For the substance of every seed or germ is naturally composed of just such materials, and in just such proportions, as are most favorable to healthy *germination*, whenever the requisite degree of heat and moisture is applied. And not only so, but all these saline solutions are antiseptics. That is, they tend to prevent decay, or change, in the particles of matter to which they are applied. But we well know that no seed can germinate or grow, until a species of decay or change in the condition of its particles commences. Hence, we contend, from reason as well as experiment, that when the substance of seeds of any kind is impregnated with such solutions, their germination or growth is actually retarded, and sometimes destroyed. But when the seed is enclosed in a husk, like oats, this husk may serve as a storehouse, to retain the saline matter for the benefit of the young sprout, after the materials that nature has placed in the seed itself are exhausted; and hence, this class of seeds are materially benefited by *judiciously* soaking.

"The foregoing observations are not intended to apply in any degree to the important practice of simply *washing* seeds of any kind in saline solutions, for the purpose of freeing them from smut, rust, insects, &c. before sowing or planting, for this is often of very great service."—*Prairie Farmer.*

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Raspberry Bushes.—The raspberry fruit is borne upon new shoots put out the current season—consequently it belongs to the third class, providing for the shortening of the last year's wood, and is to be pruned upon principles similar to that given for the grape. The wood of the raspberry, or more properly its shoots, are only of two years duration—one season they spring forth from the root, and in the next season fruit and die. But the root continues to send up an abundance of young shoots yearly for a great length of time. After cutting away all last year's bearers (the now dead wood) it becomes part of the pruning, to remove some of the young shoots produced the last season, by pulling them up by the roots. They serve as plants to form new raspberry beds. At each old root, or stool, only six of the last year's shoots should be suffered to remain, and these should be cut down generally about one third of their length. If needed, instead of cutting them off, their ends may be bent over and covered with earth, that they root and form plants for new beds.—*Selected.*

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*Valuable Recipe for Whitewash.*—Take about a peck of unslacked lime, and slack it in hot water; add to this, while hot, about six pounds of lard, or any house grease; then put in about two pounds of glue, and if for nice inside painting, a pound of Spanish whiting, and a few handfuls of salt. Apply it while hot. No rain or dampness has any effect to darken this whitewash at any time.—*West. Far. and Gard.*

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*Implements that every Farmer should have.*—In a country where labor is dear and produce cheap, every expedient by which the former may be saved or lessened, is valuable. Hence the importance to to the farmer of such implements as will enable him to do his work well and expeditiously.

*The Drill Barrow* ranks high among this class of inventions, especially for the sowing of ruta bagas, carrots, &c. By it, the fatiguing labor of a day may be accomplished in a couple of hours. The seed is more evenly distributed, and the labor is light. The same implement is sometimes employed for planting corn, dropping the kernels at any assigned distance, and going over five acres in a day.

*The Cultivator* is another instrument as useful as it is rare among us. Its use dispenses in a great degree with the labor of the hoe, leaving it indeed scarcely any thing to perform, when the rows are straight. It is sometimes formed to open and contract, so as to be accommodated to the space between the rows.

*The Horse Rake*—by which a man and boy will rake as much as half a dozen hands with the common hand-rake.

These are some of the most common of the improved implements in use among the favored few, which are worthy of more general introduction. But the difficulty of procuring many of them is so great, that those who would otherwise have them, are prevented. We need in this State an Agricultural Warehouse, such as is found in the Eastern States.—*Michigan Far.*

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A correspondent of the N. E. Farmer suggests as one great cause of the failure of wheat in New England, the clearing away of forests, and recommends the planting of forest trees so as to intersperse cultivated fields. The recommendation is doubtless a good one, for purposes both of utility and ornament, but we do not think the originator of it has hit upon the right cause of the failure he would remedy. We think it more probable that it lies in the character of the soil and the quantity of snow.—*Ibid.*

For the New England Farmer.

## DEVON CATTLE.

*Mr Breck*—Sir—I find an article in No. 7, vol. vi. of the Genesee Farmer, over the signature of William Garbutt, and headed "Devon Cattle," wherein the writer states that the Devons have "no white on them, if pure, excepting the bush of the tail, and frequently a shade of white around the outer edge of the ears." He also states at the beginning of the article, that he has "repeatedly been requested to give his opinion of Devon cattle."

I am aware that when a person is considered to be a good judge of anything, and when it is for his own interest to be so, that when his opinion is requested about it, it is unpleasant to say that he does not know all the facts in the case. But it is much better to say so, than to give a hap-hazard statement which may expose his own ignorance, or lead others astray, or both. If Mr Garbutt had been better acquainted with the "characteristics peculiar to the Devons," he certainly would not have made such an unqualified assertion—as pure Devons have frequently a white spot on the belly before the udder, and it often happens that part of the udder is white. Such is the case with several of the animals in the herd of Lord Leicester, ("*Colke*, of Norfolk,") from whose herd Mr G. states part of his derived their origin, (and they are not likely to be purer blood than their ancestors,) and also in animals of Mr Blomfield's herd, Warham, county of Norfolk; and there are not two purer herds of North Devons in England.

The following are a few of the characteristics of the North Devons, which I copied from a note in possession of Mr Blomfield, in August, 1845, and he informed me that they were correct, (and he is considered good authority in England)—viz: "Color, red; nose, white or wax candled; the forehead considerably indented between the eyes, with a light kind of ring round close to the eye; a little white on the end of the tail, and *under the belly*, but not more than half way up the body, is not objected to by some people."

Youatt states that "some breeders object to the slightest intermixture of white: not even a star on the forehead is allowed; yet a few good oxen have *large, distant patches of white*, but if the colors run into each other, the beasts are considered as a mongrel and valueless breed."

Professor Low, in his work on British animals, when speaking of the Devons, states: "They appear to be of that variety of the ancient cattle which were valued for their *white color*, and the peculiarity of their red ears." He farther states, "The Devonshire breeders adhere scrupulously to the deep red color of the hair, and reject individuals having a tendency to produce white on the body. This is merely a conventional test of purity and goodness, for certainly *white is still more than red the pristine color of the race, and its appearance ought not to be regarded as a sign of degeneracy.*" And Mr Herbert, when describing the Devonshire cow, (in the Farmers' Magazine,) says: "Red, *starred*, or *white* faced; better horned than the ox."

It would appear from these statements that pure Devons have white patches besides "the bush of the tail"; that the objections raised by "some people" against the *white*, (except where the patches run into each other,) proceeds from a matter of taste, and not because it is a proof of impurity of blood.

Mr Garbutt farther states: "Their white bushy tails are very remarkable, and are a sure test of the blood." Now it is a *fact*, well known to those conversant with Devons, that it frequently happens that individuals of that breed have both Mr Garbutt's "sure tests" of *purity* and *impurity*. I have seen such animals (within the last nine months) in the herd from which he states that a part of his Devons originated, and if he will make the necessary inquiry at the proper quarter, he can be satisfied of the truth of what I have stated. He will find on correct examination or inquiry, where such can properly be obtained, that it more frequently happens that pure Devons have a *white* spot under the belly, than "a shade of *white* around the outer edge of the ears." I have frequently seen a white spot on the former place, but never "a white shade" on the latter, nor do I know of any authority who speaks of such a shade, except Mr Garbutt. However, I do not mean to deny its existence, as I have certainly seen but few Devons, compared with the whole race. However, I have seen enough of them to enable me to distinguish a North from a South Devon, and if Mr Garbutt had been able to do so, he certainly would not have given such a description of their "peculiar characteristics" as he has done.

I have no doubt but Mr Garbutt intended to give a correct statement; but when he knew he was considered good authority, and that people looked up to him for instruction, he was certainly presumptive in giving an opinion on a subject of which he has shown good evidence of scanty information.

Misrepresentations of the characteristics peculiar to any breed, may prove a serious loss to the breeder, as it has a tendency to prejudice people against very superior animals which may have a characteristic (or more than one,) that some person who is considered high authority, has condemned as a sign (or signs) of impurity; and their value thereby may not only be impaired to the breeder, but the country may also be injured; as such animals, if bulls, instead of being kept for the purpose of breeding, (for which they may be eminently qualified,) would be prepared for the shambles or the yoke.

Mr Garbutt states that "There was originally two varieties of the Devons, [there are still two varieties,] possessing different properties of excellence. The two breeds have been crossed, and have produced animals uniting the valuable properties of both."

The South Devons are considered (in England,) a much inferior breed to the North Devons. Now, according to the known principles of breeding, the South Devons would be improved by a cross with the North Devons—but how the North Devons could be improved by such a cross, I have yet to learn; except the breeder had the same power to improve them that the potter has to improve the form of a misshapen vessel, while the clay is in a plastic state. When two breeds are crossed, the blood mingles, and although the inferior breed may possess some points of excellence in which the superior is deficient, and if there were a law in nature by which the good points of the former could be imparted to the latter, without the good points of the latter suffering deterioration, then we might expect a breed of animals somewhere in the neighborhood of perfection. But there is no such law; for it appears from experience, that the same law by which the good qualities are imparted, the bad ones also are imparted; and, as a general thing, the offspring of such a cross, although superior to the inferior breed, is inferior to the superior one.

But, as Mr Garbutt states that he has "crossed the two breeds, which made (as he thinks) a great improvement," he can, therefore, perhaps, inform us how the improvement was made. I have never heard that "the celebrated COKE, of Norfolk," improved the "valuable properties" of his herd of "pure North Devons," by a cross with the South Devons. Nor has Mr Blomfield, (whose herd of North Devons are not surpassed in point of excellence by any herd in England,) ever attempted such a cross.

The successful breeders of North Devons have brought them to their present state of improvement by judicious selections from *amongst themselves*, and *coupling* them, and not by crossing with the South Devons.

It is an up-hill enough business to improve a breed and keep it in an improved state, under the most favorable circumstances; but it would be a down-hill business to cross a superior with an inferior breed, for the purpose of improving the former, even suppose the latter had some points superior to the former—unless, as I have already stated, the breeder possessed the power of moulding the animal "according to order."

By the by, I have heard of a breeder who professes to have such power! and if he really has that ability, it is another proof of "the march of intellect" in the nineteenth century. This gentleman has stated that he received his "ideas of breeding from Jacob," and as the history of that patriarch has been before the world for many centuries, it is a proof of the great obtuseness of mind that has prevailed for such a long period of time on such an important subject; but the darkness has been happily dispelled by the illuminating rays of a star of the first magnitude, suddenly *burst*-ing forth, and throwing a flood of light on hitherto benighted mind!

It has been said by some people that his articles—the products of his wondrous skill—were not what they were "cracked up to be." But it should be remembered that it was a first attempt of the kind, and to arrive at perfection, requires practice. But a person is not always able to form a correct idea of the ability of a workman when he is manufacturing "according to order," as he then must study the taste of his customers, and also perform his work according to the remuneration he receives. A plow-maker could not afford to make as good a plow for two as for ten dollars; neither could a cow-maker afford to make as good an animal for fifty as for five hundred dollars. Yours, respectfully,

ALEX'R BICKETT.

*Lowell, April* 29, 1846.

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*Ayrshire Stock.*—The Massachusetts Agricultural Society have imported several fine animals, bulls and cows, of the Ayrshire breed, with a view to the improvement of the dairy stock of that State. This is undoubtedly a wise move. There is no apparent reason why the Ayrshires should not retain all their excellence in New England, as milkers.—*Prairie Far.*

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The seeds of the beet are contained in rough, tough capsules, three or four together. Soaking softens this capsule, and allows the seed to germinate at once. If not soaked, it takes a long while for this husk to soften.—*Ib.*

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The whole appearance of vegetation at this moment, is delightful, and calculated to draw thanks and praises from every heart, to Him who rules the seasons.—*Genesee Far.*

## EXPERIMENTS IN DEEP PLOWING.

At a late meeting of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, Mr Girdwood read a report of experiments in deep plowing, made by Mr Wilson, of Eastfield, Penicuik:

The farm on which Mr Wilson's experiments were made, is nearly level, the soil varying from gravelly earth to tenacious clay. It had for many years been plowed from 5 to 6 inches deep, and at that depth a hard crust or pan had formed, which was almost impervious to water.

The first field experimented upon, consisted of 13 acres, partly heavy, on a clay subsoil—partly light, on a gravelly subsoil. A depth of 6 or 7 inches was first taken with the common plow, in October and November, 1844, which was followed by the subsoil plow to an additional depth of 7 or 8 inches. Two acres were plowed in the usual way.

In preparing for a green crop in the spring, no difficulty was found in working through the crust or pan, on that portion where the subsoil plow had been. The whole field was equally manured with a moderate supply of farmyard dung and guano, and was sown with yellow turnips. The appearance of the whole crop was similar till August, when that portion of it in the subsoiled land took the lead, and the produce per acre where subsoiled was 26 tons 17 cwt., and where plowed in the old way, 20 tons 7 cwt.

The second experiment was made on a field of deep earth inclined to sand, on a subsoil of sandy clay. Two acres were subsoiled 15 inches deep, two were plowed 6 or 7 inches, and two ridges were trench-plowed 13 inches. The field was cross-plowed in the spring, manured in the drill, and planted with potatoes. The crop was lifted towards the end of October, when the quantity yielded by each portion per acre, was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Subsoiled, | 7 tons 9 cwt. 2 qrs. |
| Trenched, | 7 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs. |
| Plowed, | 6 " 14 cwt. 1 qr. |

Another experiment was made on a field intended for barley after potatoes. The barley was sown about the 1st of April; the subsoiled portion kept the lead throughout; the crop was cut on the 22d of September, and when thrashed, the produce on the subsoiled land was 8 qrs. 3 bushels barley, and 36 1-2 cwts. of straw, and on the plowed 7 qrs. 4 bushels, 3 pecks, and 28 cwt. straw; the difference in money being about £2 9s. per acre in favor of the subsoiled.

Another experiment was made when plowing a field in February, two ridges of which were subjected to subsoiling to the depth of 12 inches. This was not followed by any beneficial result, and the author questions the utility of subsoiling for a grain crop when the ground is in lea, as it is difficult to lay the furrows so compactly as they should be for the reception of seed.

Deep or trench plowing, he thinks, may be advantageous to soils of a deep nature, but injurious to those which are thin, with a sterile and tenacious subsoil. Subsoil plowing, however, if judiciously performed, he thinks, can seldom do harm, and that a great variety of soils will derive much benefit from the operation.

Mr Girdwood remarked that he agreed with Mr Wilson as to the soils which should be deep plowed and subsoiled, and called attention to the great crop of barley obtained in one of the experiments detailed.

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Colman states that five Irish (Kerry) cows produced 320 lbs. of butter each, in one season.

*Experiment on Diseased Potatoes.*—In November last, I tied a sound potato against the diseased part of an unsound one, and placed them on a cellar floor. In a month, on examining them, the sound one was not affected. Thinking that the cuticle might have been its coat of defence, I removed this, and placed the two potatoes as before. I have just brought them under a second examination; the diseased one is is thoroughly rotten, the healthy one sound still, and although several minute specks of the fungus show their attachment to the healthy potato, they have been unable to enter more than the fortieth part of an inch. The experiment may possibly be worth something to the physiologist, in his inquiry after causes. Here is evidence that the fungus cannot make an inroad amongst the cellular tissue of the tuber just which way it chooses, but must wait to have its sporules circulated with the fluids of the plant in vegetation. Thus distributed, the work of destruction is easy.—*B. Maund, in Gard. Chron.*

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*The Jerusalem Artichoke.*—Amongst the whole of our esculents, there is not another that will yield a more certain and abundant increase than the Jerusalem Artichoke—being liable to no disease, and braving, with considerable productiveness, the worst possible situations. It is an astonishing tuber. The frosts of this country (England) have no effect upon it. Its nutritive properties are *greater* [doubted] than those of the Potato, which we all so much admire, and which, it is to be lamented, is likely to perish, without any efficient remedy being discovered to prevent the calamity.

Previous to the general cultivation of the Potato, the Jerusalem Artichoke, as an article of food, was extensively planted in gardens. With the French it is in much higher repute than with us, even amongst the middle and lower classes. Rely upon it, this root will liberally reward us for all the care we may bestow on its culture. In many instances in this country, the Artichoke bed is assigned to some obscure and sunless corner of the kitchen garden, and one planting often suffices for a generation; like the horse-radish bed, it is dug amongst, and the roots cut and scattered about year after year, until plants spring up in all directions. The tubers, as may be expected under such treatment, are small and worthless.

I beg to give the mode I have successfully pursued in growing this Artichoke.

The soil best suited to the potato, is also best for the artichoke,—light, friable and loamy. It should be deeply plowed, and a good dressing applied. It is quite useless to plant on poor, barren land, if a good crop, in quantity and quality, is desired. Plant in rows, alternately 2 feet and 4 feet apart, and let the plants stand at least 18 inches apart in the row. The rows should run north and south, thus allowing the sun to shine freely upon the soil; for unless sufficient room is afforded for this in planting, their great luxuriance of foliage will completely exclude the rays of the sun.

Some recommend the tubers to be cut into sets: I prefer planting them whole, using those of middling size only; if the demand be great, divide them; but if there be no scarcity, use whole tubers. I have always found the latter more productive.

During the summer, the soil should be well worked with the hoe, [cultivator,] keeping it open and free from weeds. The crop will be fit for use about the same time that our late potatoes come in, but do not require to be dug up and stored as the potato, but may remain in the ground, to be taken up as required; although it will be advisable to have a supply housed in sand, where they can be easily come at, if frost should set in.—*Helianthus Tuberosus, in London Gard. Chron.*

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*Preparation of Seed Corn.*—Mr Lansing Wetmore, communicates the following to the Farmers' Library. It may be too late to test the efficacy of it this year, on the main crop of corn, but it might be tried in case of sowing for fodder, which may yet be done. In addition to increasing the crop, the soaking would probably prevent depredations by crows:

"My corn crop last year was increased about 33 per cent. by a simple preparation of the seed as follows: At noon of the day before planting, 18th May, I put my seed corn to soak in a strong decoction of copperas water, say 2 lbs. copperas to warm soft water sufficient to cover a bushel of corn. The next morning took out a peck, added a pint or more of soft soap,, stirred it thoroughly, then put on plaster enough to make it convenient for planting. The whole field was planted with seed thus prepared, except 4 rows, which were planted with seed without any preparation. The after culture of the whole was alike. The four rows were cut up at harvest, and the corn weighed by itself; also, four rows next adjoining, the seed of which had been prepared as above. The produce of the four rows of unprepared seed was 11 1-2 bushels of ears; of the four rows of prepared seed, 17 bushels—a difference of 5 1-2 bushels of ears in 120 hills. The yield of the remainder of the field averaged fully equal to the four rows measured. The unprepared rows were about a week later than the others in ripening. The whole expense of preparing a bushel and three pecks of seed, did not exceed 62 1-2 cents. The increased produce of the field by soaking the seed, was over 200 bushels of ears."

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*Cheap Paint.*—An Ontario Farmer gives the following recipe for a cheap paint. He says he has tried it on brick, and prefers it to oil paint, and says it will last longer on rough sliding of wood than oil paint will on plain sliding of boards.

Take one bushel of unslacked lime, and slack it with cold water; when slacked, add 50 lbs. of Spanish whiting, 17 lbs. salt, and 13 lbs. sugar. Strain the mixture through a wire sieve, and it will be fit for use, after reducing with cold water. In order to give it a good color, three coats are necessary on brick, and two on wood. It may be put on with a brush similar to whitewash. Each coat must have sufficient time to dry before the next is applied.

For painting inside walls, take as before, one bushel of unslacked lime, 3 lbs. sugar, 5 lbs. salt, and prepare as above.—*Genesee Far.*

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*Scare-crows.*—Suspend bright sheets of tin on tall poles, at proper distances, through your cornfields, and the crows will not touch your corn, as the least wind causes a reflection that will prove just as frightful to them as an explosion of gunpowder. We have tried this plan for several years and never without success.—*Amer. Far.*

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*For Grubs in Sheep's Heads.*—Light a pipe, insert the stem a good way up the nostril of the sheep, cover the bowl with a handkerchief, and blow the tobacco smoke vigorously up each nostril.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, May 20, 1846.

## A PLEA FOR THE BIRDS.

Mr Breck—The season having arrived when renovated nature smiles in all her loveliness, and the "feathered songsters" greet us with their sweetest notes; and the time, also, being fast approaching when they will be committing their petty depredations, and taking pay for their music, and for this be liable to the vengeance of the thoughtless and the heartless—I feel a kind of impulse moving me to take up my pen in behalf of our companionable, musical little friends. And I am more inclined to do so, from the recollection that a malignant, unprovoked attack was made on the little warblers, by a certain Mr "X." in the Albany Cultivator, last fall, which you copied, and for which he has never been rebuked.

He admits that "a large host of scribes, in the different agricultural papers," cry "Spare the birds." And, let me tell him, no *scribe* will ever gain enviable renown by arraying himself against this formidable host, who have the promptings of humanity, the kindest feelings of our nature, as well as the dictates of *reason and justice* to support them, in their appeals to our sympathies, in behalf of this interesting portion of the animal creation. And an attempt to obliterate the kind feeling every generous bosom cherishes for the joyous, social little songsters, will be as futile as the attempt to remove the disgust and hatred naturally implanted in every human breast, for that implacable enemy of our race, the snake.

Some men take pride in being "heterodox," and arrogate merit simply because they "differ from others." The frosts of autumn must have chilled the heart of this writer, when he penned his article. Had he waited for this soul-enlivening, heart-warming season, when the "flowers appear on the earth," when the "vines with the tender grape give a good smell," when the "singing of the birds" betokens the return of spring, when "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land"—if his heart is not colder than an iceberg, and absolutely *fire-proof*, it would have been warmed by the enchanting beauties of the season, and he would have paused before advising hostilities against the defenceless, pretty tenants of the groves. There is something in the melody of the birds that makes the warm heart feel warmer; something that awakens emotions in the susceptible bosom, which the hissing of *snakes* and the croaking of *toads* cannot inspire,—something that pays the generous man, in part at least, for their little depredations. Mrs Sigourney thinks they pay their *whole rent* in music; and that not at the end of the quarter, and with doubtful or depreciated currency, but promptly every morning, in good notes at par. But Mrs Sigourney is *a woman*, and speaks with a woman's heart.

"X." wants to know if it is "any greater merit to be a bird, than to be a toad, snake, or lizard?" He might ask, with the same propriety, if it is any greater merit to be a man than a monkey. Yes, it is. The bird is designed to fill a more meritorious place,—to perform a more meritorious office,—to act a part giving him just title to more merit and distinction in the scale of animal existence. His superior merit is evinced by the sphere he occupies, and by the element he moves in. He is endowed with the faculty of pleasing, and making himself agreeable, which neither snake, toad nor lizard can boast of. *Both are not*, as X. says, "equally innocent or equally guilty." *Original sin* attaches to the snake. But the poor bird is only accountable for a little *actual transgression*. By a decree of wisdom, there is eternal enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent. And the snake is ready to manifest his malignant disposition on all occasions—not by helping himself to what a penurious cynic would call more than his lawful proportion of the common bounties of Providence, but, by a spirit of malice and deadly hate that would disgrace the few carniverous birds belonging to the feathered tribe.

A love for the birds is, or ought to be, a part of our religion. Their music not only kindles the poet's fire, but it enlivens devotion in the pious heart. Assimilated with the beautiful and ornamental in creation, indicative of the gratuitous benevolence of the wise Creator, it raises the pious, contemplating, feeling heart from "nature up to nature's God." If their Maker designed them as "gross nuisances," which ought to be "abated," why give them their beautiful plumage, their soul-enlivening voices, their graceful forms and motions? Utility did not demand them. The end of their creation as "nuisances," could as well have been answered without their graces, and then we could "abate" them without doing so great violence to the best and noblest feelings of the generous heart.

The mother who instills a sympathetic feeling for the birds into the tender mind of her boy, stamps there a principle which will never detract from his usefulness, or from the dignity of his character, and if it does not make him a better soldier, a better statesman, or a better citizen, it will give him a better heart, and be likely to make him a better Christian and a better man. And this is that principle which X. characterizes as a "sort of *morbid humanity* in favor of birds, because they are birds." And however much they may delight us with their music, and however much good they may do in saving the "farm or fruit crop from insects, if, after it is thus saved, they appropriate it *all* to themselves, (says X.) they have forfeited protection." Birds, "do you hear that?"

I subscribe to the sentiment as *orthodox*, that "true humanity should extend to all animals alike, that have feeling," and if it is carried out in practice, it will "spare the birds," and afford them all the protection they want. It will protect *toads* and *lizards* too. But if a *snake* claims protection on this broad principle, let him keep his mouth shut and stop hissing.

There appears to be some *straining* in the irony, with which X. peppers his article. If he does not "strain at a gnat," he strains at a *grub and wire-worm*; and he strains hard, too, for a parallel; for I am sure none but an eye that can see no comeliness in birds, can trace any resemblance between them and "Canada thistles."

J T.

*Zanesville, May 5th*, 1846.

## MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*Saturday, May* 16, 1846.

EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS.

The first public exhibition of the Society was held in their Hall, School street, this day, which was highly creditable to the exertions of the members. The simple enumeration of the rare specimens displayed, can give no idea of their beauties and perfections: they must be seen to be appreciated. The stands were well filled, and the flowers uncommonly fine, perfect and fresh. Those that claimed particular attention from the visiters, were the Calceolarias and Fuchsias, by Col. Wilder, the rare cut flowers by a member, the Tulips and Wisteria, from Messrs. Breck & Co, the cut flowers by Messrs Winship, J. A. Kenrick, Walker & Co, Allen, Meller, Carter, Aspinwall, Warren, and Hovey & Co, the Moss Roses by Mr Gardner, the baskets of flowers by Miss Russell, the fine Geraniums from Mr Quant, and the beautiful Calceolarias from the conservatory of Mr Becar, of Brooklyn, New York.

From M. P. Wilder, President of the Society, 12 superb varieties of herbaceous Calceolarias, raised from the seed of varieties imported by N. J. Becar, Esq, Brooklyn, N. Y., a corresponding member of the Society. We have often admired some of the fine varieties that have occasionally been exhibited—but these produced by Mr Wilder, are something new, and exceed in beauty any thing of the kind we have witnessed. The flowers have white, cream or yellow ground, with well defined orange, scarlet, crimson or maroon blotches. He also exhibited Rose Bourbon Dumont d'Urville; Erica ventricosa superba, E ventricosa alba, and E curviflora rubra; Azalea indica variegata; Petunias, Lady Alice Peel, Beaute par fait and Beaute d'jour—fine new European varieties

From N. J. Becar, Esq, Brooklyn, N. Y, trusses of a great variety of beautiful herbaceous Calceolarias; some of them were of the most remarkable size, but unfortunately somewhat injured by transportation, but enough remained to show their rarity and beauty. Also, cut specimens of a beautiful Orchideous plant; 2 new Geraniums, (Lady Safe and Sarah.) and a fine Petunia.

From Messrs Hovey & Co, Lilac Sanguinea, a new and superb French variety; Hydrangea japonica, new and rare; Roses in variety; two varieties of Hawthorns, two var. double flowering Cherries, Cereus speciosissimus, and four splendid new kinds Pelargonium—Queen Philippi, Gladiolus pudibundus, and Cotrilbi.

From Wm. Quant, two plants of Lilium exinum (very fine;) three do Fuchsia Chauverii; three fine do Geraniums; also, tresses of Combretium purpurea, Tecoma jesminoides and Gardenia florida.

From a member of the Society, large branches of the beautiful Combretium purpurea, Ipomea Learii, and Horsfoliæ, Solandria grandiflora, Euphorbia panduriforma (beautiful,) Crinum longiflora, Amaryllis Johnsonii, Gesneria corymbaflora; Geraniums in great variety, and other cut flowers.

From Alex'r McLennan, 4 fine Geraniums in pots; 2 fine plants of Alonsoa grandiflora; cut flowers, &c.

From W. E. Carter, Magnolias purpurea, fuscata, and auriculata; Aquilegia secunda (very beautiful,) Iris cristata. (a new dark variety,) I. punctata, (?) Ipomopsis fraximifolia; 3 fine bouquets, and a great var cut flowers.

From Messrs Winship, Spiræas oblongifolia, lavigata, ulmifolia, flexuosa, and Nickondrite; also, one large bouquet, Pæonies, and an extensive assortment of the flowers of herbaceous and shrubby plants.

From J. L. L. F. Warren, two large and six small bouquets, Pæonies, Persian Lilacs, and a great variety cut flowers.

From Joseph Breck & Co, 100 fine Tulips, fine specimens of Wisteria consequana, variegated Mountain Ash, Tulip cornuta, (curious,) with a great var cut flowers.

From Aug. Aspinwall, a very beautiful collection of Roses.

From Messrs Walker & Co., Roses, Verbenas, Geraniums, Tulips, four bouquets, and a great var cut flowers.

From Edward Winslow, fine Tulips, and a plant of Lilium exinum.

From John A. Kenrick, Pæonies, Lilacs, and other cut flowers.

From W. Kenrick, by Miss Russel, one large and two small bouquets, Pæonies, and other cut flowers, and a basket of beautiful flowers arranged with her usual good taste.

From Wm Mellar, a great variety of Pansies, 2 bouquets and Cactus speciosissimus.

From John L. Gardner, by David Crowley, a superb and well grown Moss Rose, fine plants of Calceolaria metær, and Fuchsia Williamsonii; also, a fine collection of cut Roses.

By Thomas Needham, from Mr Mathew's greenhouse, plants of Alstræmeria tricolor, Erica rubida and Kennedia racemosa.

*Award of Premiums and Gratuities.*—David Haggerston and James Nugent, with the Chairman of the Flower Committee, were appointed Judges. They recommended a gratuity of $5 to M. P. Wilder, for his beautiful Seedling Calceolarias: To N. J. Becar, Brooklyn, N. Y., a gratuity of $3 for fine Calceolarias: To David Crowley, a gratuity of $1, for Moss Roses and other plants. They award to Wm Quant, the 1st premium of $2, for the best 6 pot plants: To Alex'r McLellan, $1, for the 2d best do: To Miss Russell a premium of $2, for the best bouquet: To Messrs Winship $1, for the 2d best.

Joseph Breck, Ch'mn.

Fruits.—Fine Grapes and the black Fig of Malaga, by John Fisk Allen, Salem.

## THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending May 17.

| May, 1846. | 7 A.M. | 12, M | 5,P M. | Wind. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday, | 11 | 46 | 55 | 44 | N. W. |
| Tuesday, | 12 | 41 | 61 | 55 | N. W. |
| Wednesday, | 13 | 39 | 68 | 54 | S. E. |
| Thursday, | 14 | 61 | 75 | 64 | S |
| Friday, | 15 | 61 | 75 | 63 | S. |
| Saturday, | 16 | 59 | 76 | 67 | S. |
| Sunday, | 17 | 64 | 75 | 70 | E. |

## BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, May 18, 1846.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 550 Beef Cattle, 12 pairs Working Oxen, 20 Cows and Calves, 60 Sheep and 300 Swine. 130 Beef Cattle unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—Prices have declined, and we reduce our quotations. Extra, $6,00 a $6,25. 1st quality, $5,75 a $6,00. 2d quality $5,25 a 5,50. 3d quality, $4,75 a 5,00.

*Working Oxen.*—Sales $65, $82 and $90.

*Cows and Calves.* Sales $23, $25, $27 and $33. We noticed a sale of two extraordinary Cows from Princeton, one part Durhams, at $105, and one native at $50.

*Sheep.*—Sales $4,75 each.

*Swine.*—A lot small Shoats 5 and 6, and a lot larger 4 1-2 and 5 1-2. At retail, from 5 1-2 to 7.

## WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

*Corrected with great care, weekly.*

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 a 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 65 to 70 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 11½c.—Southern, 10 a 00 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. The arrivals during the past week have been pretty extensive, and large sales have been made.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 a 00—Southern, round yellow, 70 a 71—Southern flat yellow, 68 a 69—do. do. white 66 a 68—do New Orleans, 60 a 66—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 75 a 77—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 43 a 00—Northern do. 48 to 00—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 50.—Shorts, per double bush. 37 a 40—Bran, 00 a 00

FLOUR. The arrivals this week have been large, and met a ready sale on the wharf and a ready sale at the depot.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $4 62 a 4 68—do. wharf, $4 62 a 0 00—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 50 a 0 00—Fredericksburg, low P'd new $4 60 a 4 62½—Alexandria, wharf, 4 60 a 4 62—Georgetown, $4 62 a 4 75—Extra do. 0 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $4 62 a 4 75—do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $4 75 a 4 87½—do fancy brands, $5 27 a 5 50—Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $3 50 a 3 75—Indian Meal in bbls. $3 37 a 0 00.

PROVISIONS. The market is a little firmer since the war news, but there have been no speculative movements, or advance in prices.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 50 a 9 50—Navy—$7 50 a 8 50.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 50 a 00 00—do Clear $12 00 a 00 00 do. Mess, $11 00 a 11 50—do Prime $9 75 a 10 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'g, 00 a 00—do store, uninspected, 8 a 10—do dairy, 00 cts. a 00—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6¾ a 7— do South and Western, 6½ a 7— Hams, Boston, 7 a 00—Southern and Western, 6¾ a 7—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 4 a 6—do new milk, 7 a 9.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

The demand for this article has been great during the past week, but prices have somewhat declined.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 38 a 40 c.—American full blood do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 30 a 32—Do. 1-2 do 23 a 30 -1-4 and common do 26 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 18 a 20—Do. unwashed, 10 a 14 — Bengasi do 6 a 7—Saxony, clean, 12—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 13—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 18 a 20—No. 3 do do do 14 a 16.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 18 a 20 ; 2d do 00 a 00.

HAY. 20 to 00 per ton—Eastern Screwed $15 to 16.

EGGS, 15 to 18.

## ☞MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Exhibition of Tree Pæonies, Hawthorns, &c. Notice is hereby given that the Exhibition of Double Hawthorns, Tree Pæonies, and hardy Azaleas, will take place on SATURDAY, May 23d, when Premiums will be awarded. For the Committee,

May 20. J. BRECK.


## Howard's Improved Easy Draught Plows.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky.* BEGIN WITH Mr. Howard's."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

## REVOLVING HORSE RAKE.

The Revolving Horse Rake has been in general use in most parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is found to be one of the most useful labor saving machines now in use. One man and horse, with a boy to lead, will rake on an average from 25 to 30 acres per day with ease, and do the work well. There is a great advantage in this rake over all others, as the person using it does not have to stop the horse to unload the rake.

For sale at Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOS. BRECK & CO.

## GRAIN CRADLES.

The Grain Cradle is an article which is coming into very general use in the New England States where they were till of late but little known, although they have been in very general use in the southern and western States, for many years, and which is found to be decidedly the best mode of harvesting grain, as it is supposed one man will cradle five acres in a day when he cannot reap more than one. The difference in gathering a crop is so much in favor of cradling, that we must suppose that it will be the only mode adopted hereafter, and the grain cradle will become of as much use, as an implement of husbandry, as the plow now is.

There has been a very great improvement in the manufacturing of this article, they are now made on the most improved plan; the scythe is well secured and finished in a superior manner and made of the best cast steel.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

## TRACE CHAINS, &c.

Just received per ship "Sunbeam," from Liverpool, a large assortment of Fence, Trace, Halter and Dog CHAINS, of every description.

Also, per "Mary Ann," from Liverpool, a large assortment of splendid *GARDEN SHEARS, FLOWER GATHERERS, BRIAR HOOKS, NORWAY RAG STONES,* &c. and

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, by JOSEPH BRECK & CO,

March 18. No. 51 and 52 N. Market street.

## SLAKED LIME.

50 casks for sale at a low price, by JOHN B. HATCH, wharf at foot of Tufts' street, near Chelsea Bridge, Charlestown. March 24.

## HOES,

Of different patterns, for sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 51 North Market street, by

April 1. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

## CLIMBING ROSES.

The subscribers have for sale strong Plants of the following superb Climbing Roses—

Queen of the Prairies;
Baltimore Belle;
Rosa rubifolia superba.

Also, Cloth of Gold and La Reine Roses, with many other new and choice varieties. JOS. BRECK & CO.

April 22, 1846.

## FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

For sale at Nos. 51 and 52 North Market street, (up stairs,) an extensive assortment of

*GARDEN, FIELD AND FLOWER SEEDS, viz.*

EARLY PEAS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cedo Nulli. | Prince Albert. |
| Smith's Early. | Bishop's Dwarf. |
| Early Frame. | Blue Imperial, and many |
| Dwarf Marrowfat. | other fine varieties. |

MELONS, OF SUPERIOR SORTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Netted Cantaloupe, | Persian. |
| Black Rock. | Nutmeg. |
| Minorca. | Green Citron, &c. |
| Skillman's Fine Rock. | |

Cuthill's Early Frame Cucumber, White Spine, &c.

Seymour's White Solid Celery—Large Asiatic Cauliflower.

TOMATOES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Large Red. | Cherry, or Grape, red and |
| Large Yellow. | yellow, &c. |
| Pear Shaped. | |

Broccoli, of various sorts—Early Cabbages, and every variety of Seed for the Garden.

March 18. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

## NEW AND CHOICE VEGETABLE SEEDS.

The subscribers have just received the following Choice *VEGETABLE SEEDS,* viz:

Bailey's Superb White Solid Celery;
Do. do. Red do.;
New Transparent Yellow Endive;
Scandex Bulbosa, or Turnip rooted Chervil, (a delicious vegetable;)
German Greens, (beautifully curled;)
Couve Touchardа, (a delicious vegetable;)
Weeden's prize Cucumber, 25 cents each paper;
Cuthill's improved black Spined, do. do.
Cappell's Cream Brocoli;
Cheltenham do.; Hardy Cape do.;
Royal Queen Cabbage;
Warner's Incomparable do.;
Royal Dwarf do.;
Wellington do.;
Imperial do.;
Vanach do.; Early Hope, &c.;
British Queen Pea;
Woodford's Prolific do.;
Early Victoria do.;
Green Imperial;
Matchless Marrowfat;
Royal green Marrow;
Dancer's Monastery;
Warner's Early Emperor,—with many other choice varieties. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, April 28, 1846.

## SPRUCE POLES.

1000 dozen suitable for Rustic Fences;
1000 dozen Dahlia and Bean Poles;
2000 Spruce Poles 10 to 30 feet in length;

For sale by

MOSES FRENCH, jr. Maine Wharf, Broad Street, near the bottom of Summer street.

March 29, 1846. 3m.

## REINE CLAUDE DE BAVAY PLUMS.

A few Trees of this new and superb variety of Plum, for sale by the subscribers at $2 each. J. BRECK & CO.

April 14

## PAULINA IMPERIALIS.

For sale by the subscribers, a few Plants of this superb Ornamental Tree at $2 each. J BRECK & CO

## Guano! Guano!

The subscribers have for sale *GUANO,* of various qualities, from 37½ to $50 per ton, viz: 100 tons first quality of Peruvian, 100 do. do. do. Ichaboe, 100 do. second do. do.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store. 51 and 52 North Market Street. (up stairs.) Boston.

April 8.

## SUPERB DOUBLE DAHLIAS,

The subscribers have as great a variety of choice Double Dahlias, of every color and tint, as can be found in the city, which they offer at reduced prices.

May 5. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*A Benighted Woman in an Enlightened Land.*—The following anecdote, illustrative of the benighted condition of the people of Kingswood, about two miles from Bristol, England, was related to the author of the "Pen and Ink Sketches," by a nephew of the Rev. John Emra, the rector of the parish, who had it from the lips of his uncle:

Mr Emra was one day called to visit a poor woman, who was represented to be at the point of death. On entering her apartment, he found her in the last stage of consumption, and in much distress of mind. Although she had been born and brought up in his parish, it appeared that she had never been inside of a church, and was entirely ignorant of the first principles of christianity. After he had talked with her for some time, the poor creature manifested some interest in what he said, and after he had explained to her how God's only Son came to earth, suffered, bled and died for sinners, he told her that such a sacrifice was made for *her*. "Well," said she, "he must ha' gone through a world of trouble." The clergyman redoubled his exertions to pour light on her darkened mind, and after he had again alluded to Christ's agonies, the old woman lifted up her hands, and after compassionately exclaiming, "Poor young gen'leman! I hope from my heart as it might n't be true!" fell back and died.

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*The Cat and the Mouse.*—The Nantucket Islander says the following story was told by a reformed inebriate, as an apology for so much of the folly of drunkards. It is worthy of Æsop:

"A mouse running about a brewery, happened to get into a vat of beer, and was in imminent danger of drowning, and appealed to a cat to help him out. The cat replied, that it was a foolish request, for, said Tom, "as soon as I get you out, I shall eat you." The mouse replied that that fate would be more agreeable than to be drowned in beer. The cat lifted him out, but the fume of the beer caused puss to sneeze, and to drop the mouse, who scampered off and took refuge in his hole. The cat called on the mouse to come out, saying, "Did you not agree that I should eat you?" "Ah," replied the mouse, "but you know *I was in liquor at the time.*"

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*Suing for Damages.*—"Hallo, Sharp! what's the matter? what makes you hobble so?"

"Why, I had my foot crushed the other day between the cars, through the carelessness of a conductor—that's all."

"Do n't you mean to sue for damages?"

"Damages? no—I've had damages enough already;—had n't I better sue for *repairs?*"

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An Irishman who had left his native country, and sought an asylum in America, because it was a land of liberty, was attacked soon after his arrival by a furious mastiff. He stooped to pick up a stone to defend himself, but it was frozen fast down. "By my sowl," cried Pat, "now is n't this a swate land of liberty, where the dogs are let loose and the stones tied fast?"

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*Married*—In Barnstable, Mr John *Post* to Miss Sophia *Rails*. Nothing better for fencing, except this: At *Stonc*ington, Mr Rufus *Wall* to Miss Susan *Rockbot'om*.

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Prion was once brought before a judge more noted for pomposity than sound sense. "What is your business?" said the judge. "I am a poet," replied Prion. "Oh! a poet! I have a brother who has the misfortune to be a poet," said the judge. "Indeed!" replied Prion, "then he and I are in somewhat similar circumstances, for I have a brother who has the misfortune to be a *fool.*"

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*Tender Reminiscences.*—I have a regard, says Titmarsh, for every man on board that ship, from the captain down to the cook—who, with a touching affection, used to *send us locks of his hair in the soup.*"

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*Joe.*—Doctor, can you eat hot oyster soup with impunity?

*Dr.*—Well, I *prefer* to eat it with a *spoon.*

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### SUPERB VARIETIES OF FLOWER SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. *Seedsmen and Florists*, No. 51 and 52 North Market street, (up stairs) have now received a full supply of fresh *FLOWER SEEDS* from the most celebrated Florists of Europe, from their own garden in Brighton and from other sources, of the most select varieties—ever offered in this country. Special attention has been given by the subscribers in long practice, in improving the numerous varieties of hardy Flowers, which have so long been the object of their cultivation, and they feel assured that the seeds saved by themselves, cannot be surpassed by any other growers in the country.

Among some of the choice seeds are the following, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Extra fine Verbena seeds, raised by an amateur in this country, from a bed of seedling, of 40 different varieties of every color and shade, price per package, | 25 |
| Extra fine Double Picotee and Carnation Pink seed, saved from a bed of 50 fine double varieties, (Breck & Co's. best.) | 25 |
| Extra Double Carnation seed from fine named Florists Flowers (imported,) | 25 |
| Extra double Picotee Pink seed from fine named double Flowers (imported) | 25 |
| Fine Carnation and Picotee Pink seed, | 12½ |
| Extra Double Florists Pink seed, from choice named Flowers (imported) | 25 |
| Double Chinese Imperial Pink seed, raised in this country from a bed of 50 or more fine varieties, | 12 |
| Phlox Drummondii, mixed colors, embracing scarlet, crimson, purple, rose, pink, and variegated varieties, | 12½ |
| Calceolarias, mixed varieties, from fine named sorts, | 25 |
| Pansy seed, from a collection of named sorts, | 25 |
| Geraniums, from a great variety of fine named sorts, | 25 |
| Petunia seed, from a great variety of fine mixed, variegated and other sorts, | 12½ |
| Double Hollyhock seed, in boxes containing sixteen distinct varieties, | 75 |
| German Asters, of the most improved and splendid sorts, in boxes of 12 beautiful varieties, | 75 |
| Annual and perennial Lupins, in boxes, containing 16 distinct species and varieties, many of them most superb, | 75 |
| Goodetias and Œnotheras in boxes, 10 best varieties and species, | 50 |
| Russian and other ten week stock, 20 distinct varieties, | 1,00 |
| Ditto 10 ditto ditto | 50 |
| A collection of 20 best varieties of Annual Flower seeds, | 1,00 |
| Ditto 40 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds, | 2,00 |
| Boxes containing a choice collection of 100 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds, | 4,00 |
| Polyanthus seed from fine named sorts, per package, | 25 |
| Auricula ditto | 25 |
| Didiscus cœrulea, | 12½ |
| Brachycome Iberidifolia, | 25 |
| Mimulus—8 varieties, | 75 |
| Do. single paper, | 12½ |
| Double Balsams, 10 superb varieties, | 62½ |
| Four varieties fine Candytuft, | 25 |
| Six " sweet Peas, | 37 |
| Four " wall Flower, | 25 |
| Four " Schizanthus, | 25 |

Also, other fine varieties, too numerous to mention, embracing a rare collection of more than 400 varieties. Catalogues may be had on application.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

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### HORTICULTURAL TOOLS.

A few cases of superior Horticultural Tools, for gentlemen or ladies' use For sale by JOS. BRECK & CO., 51 and 52 North Market Street.

Boston, Feb. 2.

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### HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The sub-oil Plow is unquestionably the most important agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry.

These Plows are for sale, wholesale and retail, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

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### MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture. His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain. Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

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### ESSAY ON GUANO.

For sale at Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Teschemacher's Essay on Guano.—describing its properties and the best methods of its application in Agriculture and Horticulture, with the value of importations from different localities; founded on actual analyses, and on personal experiments upon numerous kinds of trees, vegetables, flowers, &c. Price 25 cents. J. BRECK & CO.

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### GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co. No. 51 North Market street.

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### BOUSSINGAULT'S RURAL ECONOMY.

Boussingault's Rural Economy; Price $1,75. Downing's Book of Fruits; price $1,75. Stable Keeper's Companion; price $1,00. Also, a general assortment of *AGRICULTURAL WORKS.*

JOS. BRECK & CO.


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## NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

Remittances, *not exceeding ten dollars*, at any *one time*, may be made as follows:—A subscriber owes us two or eight dollars, which he wishes to remit us. He will pay this amount to the Post Master *in his own town*, and take his *receipt* for it, as money paid him on *our* account. He will then send that *receipt*, enclosed in a letter, *to us*. We pass it to the Post Master in Boston, and get the money for it. This arrangement does away with nearly the whole risk of making remittance, and puts every subscriber in possession of "suitable funds" for that purpose.

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TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS
21 SCHOOL STREET.